

YOUTH INACTIVITY

Young people who are neither in employment nor in education and training are at risk of becoming socially excluded – individuals with income below the poverty-line and lacking the skills to improve their economic situation.

Definition

The indicator presents the share of youth who are neither in education and training nor in employment, as a percentage of the total number of youths in the corresponding age group. Youths in education include those attending part-time as well as full-time education, but exclude those in non-formal education and in educational activities of very short duration. Employment is defined according to the ILO Guidelines and covers all those who have worked for pay for at least one hour in the reference week of the survey or were temporarily absent from such work.

Overview

On average across OECD countries, 17.7% of the 20-to-24-year-olds and 8.4% of the 15-to-19-year-olds were neither in school nor at work in 2009. The share of youth who are neither in education nor in employment was twice as high for youths aged 20 to 24 than those aged 15 to 19. This ratio has been relatively constant between 1997 and 2009.

The proportion of the 20-to-24-year-olds who were neither in school nor out work increased by 2.2 percentage points between 2008 and 2009, whereas it decreased by 3.5 percentage points between 1997 and 2008. For OECD countries as a whole, the share of youth aged 20-to-24-year-old who are not in employment nor in education declined up to 2008, mainly reflecting the fact that young people, particularly women, spend more time in education than they did a decade ago. This share is even higher among people aged 25 to 29 (19.1% in 2009).

Differences across countries are large: in Japan, Luxembourg and the Netherlands less than 9% of youth were in this situation. The ratio is substantially higher in Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Spain, the United States and Brazil, where this figure exceeded 20%, and in Turkey, where the share exceeded 40%.

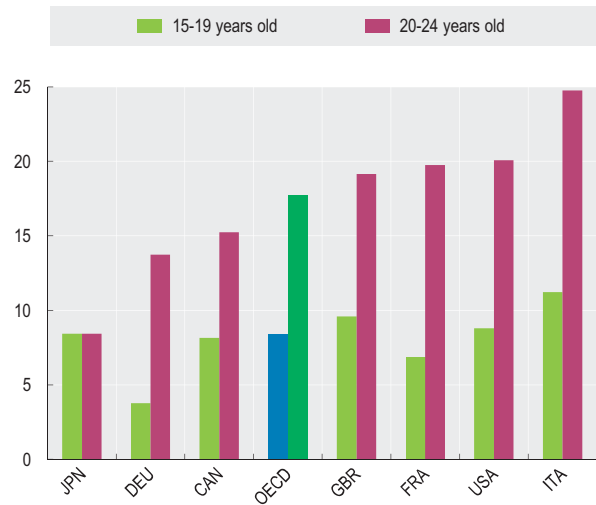
In most countries, a smooth transition from school to work is highly dependent on the business cycle and on economic conditions. As these conditions worsen, youths making the transition from school to work will be among the first affected. This is because, when employers are shedding workers, it is often difficult for young individuals to get a foothold in the labour market as they will be competing for jobs with more experienced workers. Also, when employment rates drop, people's incentive to stay in school longer becomes stronger as the potential earnings that students forego while studying will in many cases be close to zero. In this context, it is important for education systems to ease conditions of access to education and training to make additional resources available to educational institutions.

Comparability

The main problem of comparability is that, in some countries, youths performing compulsory military service are considered as being neither in employment nor in education. However, the duration of military services is in most countries generally short; hence, the reallocation of military conscripts to the employment/education category would not change the figures shown here by much.

Youth who are not in education nor in employment

As a percentage of persons in that age group, 2009



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932535090>

Sources

- OECD (2011), *Education at a Glance*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2011), *OECD Economic Outlook*, OECD Publishing.

Further information

Analytical publications

- OECD (2011), *Society at a Glance: OECD Social Indicators*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2010), *Jobs for Youth*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2000), *From Initial Education to Working Life: Making Transitions Work*, OECD Publishing.

Websites

- OECD Education at a Glance (supplementary material), www.oecd.org/edu/eag2011.
- Youth Employment Summit, www.yesweb.org.



Youths who are not in education nor in employment

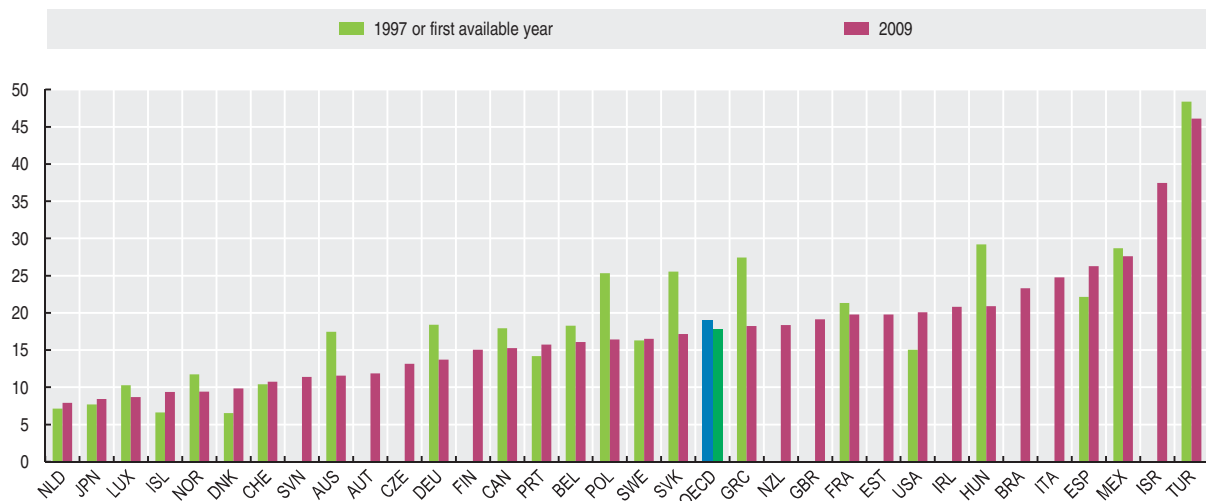
As a percentage of persons in that age group

	Youth ages between 15 and 19							Youths aged between 20 and 24						
	1997	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	1997	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Australia	8.1	6.8	7.4	7.1	6.5	6.3	8.3	17.5	13.3	11.6	11.5	10.7	10.7	11.6
Austria	..	..	6.9	6.6	5.3	5.6	6.5	..	..	12.4	12.5	11.0	11.4	11.8
Belgium	9.0	6.5	6.2	7.1	5.2	5.5	5.7	18.3	16.0	18.3	16.9	15.4	14.1	16.1
Canada	7.7	8.2	7.0	7.3	7.3	7.3	8.1	17.9	15.7	14.4	13.0	13.7	13.1	15.2
Czech Republic	..	7.9	5.3	4.5	2.9	2.7	3.5	..	20.3	16.6	14.1	11.0	10.6	13.1
Denmark	1.4	2.7	4.3	4.4	3.9	2.8	2.9	6.5	6.6	8.3	5.9	8.2	7.7	9.8
Estonia	..	..	5.2	3.7	5.7	4.9	8.0	..	..	16.3	15.4	15.3	10.7	19.8
Finland	..	..	5.2	3.6	3.5	5.1	5.1	..	..	13.0	13.3	13.3	12.0	15.1
France	5.7	6.2	5.4	5.4	6.3	7.0	6.9	21.3	20.5	16.7	18.8	17.8	19.0	19.8
Germany	5.0	5.7	4.4	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.8	18.4	16.9	18.7	16.7	15.2	14.0	13.7
Greece	9.6	9.3	11.7	7.8	8.5	8.4	7.9	27.5	25.9	21.6	18.4	17.7	17.1	18.2
Hungary	8.9	8.6	6.4	6.0	5.0	5.7	5.6	29.2	22.0	18.9	18.5	16.9	18.4	20.9
Iceland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.6	..	10.0	..	6.4	..	9.4
Ireland	..	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.1	8.5	11.0	..	9.7	12.3	11.8	12.1	14.6	20.8
Israel	..	..	24.7	24.3	25.7	22.2	24.7	..	..	40.3	40.6	39.6	37.5	37.5
Italy	..	13.1	11.2	11.8	10.2	9.6	11.2	..	27.5	24.1	22.8	22.6	22.0	24.8
Japan	7.7	8.8	8.8	9.1	7.6	7.4	8.4	7.7	8.8	8.8	9.1	7.6	7.4	8.4
Luxembourg	5.6	..	2.2	4.1	2.9	2.1	2.7	10.3	8.2	9.3	10.3	9.2	9.8	8.7
Mexico	19.0	18.3	..	..	..	..	18.4	28.7	27.1	..	..	..	..	27.6
Netherlands	2.8	3.7	3.9	3.0	3.6	2.1	3.6	7.1	8.2	9.1	7.3	6.9	5.6	7.9
New Zealand	..	..	8.0	9.1	9.7	8.4	12.4	..	..	14.4	13.7	14.2	15.2	18.3
Norway	1.6	..	2.5	3.4	3.7	4.0	4.2	11.7	8.0	9.6	9.1	8.8	7.0	9.4
Poland	5.3	4.5	1.7	3.8	2.5	2.4	3.6	25.3	30.8	20.1	20.7	18.3	15.6	16.4
Portugal	9.8	7.7	8.4	7.8	8.6	7.1	6.9	14.2	11.0	14.1	13.3	15.2	13.5	15.7
Slovak Republic	16.7	26.3	6.3	6.7	5.4	5.7	4.5	25.5	33.1	25.2	22.8	19.9	16.6	17.1
Slovenia	..	..	4.9	4.2	4.3	4.4	2.5	..	..	13.0	13.7	10.4	10.3	11.4
Spain	10.9	8.0	10.8	10.1	10.9	10.5	13.4	22.1	15.0	19.4	16.9	17.2	19.4	26.3
Sweden	4.6	3.6	4.7	5.3	5.4	4.4	5.5	16.3	10.7	13.4	15.2	13.1	12.9	16.5
Switzerland	7.4	7.9	7.5	7.6	8.2	9.4	7.9	10.4	5.9	11.9	10.8	10.4	9.1	10.7
Turkey	30.2	31.2	36.1	35.0	34.5	37.1	28.7	48.4	44.2	49.7	48.8	46.3	46.1	46.1
United Kingdom	..	8.0	9.3	10.9	10.7	9.8	9.6	..	15.4	16.8	18.2	18.1	18.3	19.1
United States	7.1	7.0	6.1	6.3	6.3	7.2	8.8	15.1	14.4	15.5	15.6	16.2	17.2	20.1
OECD average	8.8	9.4	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6	8.4	19.0	17.8	17.2	16.8	15.7	15.5	17.7
Brazil	..	..	..	..	14.7	13.8	14.0	..	..	..	..	23.4	22.5	23.3

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932505792>

Youths aged between 20 and 24 who are not in education nor in employment

As percentage of persons in that age group



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932505811>





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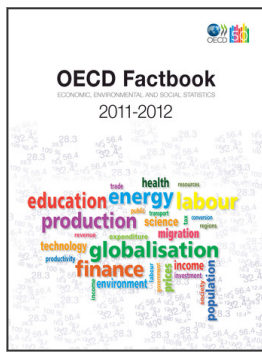
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